GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:837
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
NEWS TELECAST BY CABLE OPERATORS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether various cable operators are telecasting news on their own without taking necessary permission from the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this practice?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b): The cable operator under the definition of Programme as enjoined in Section 2(g) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 can transmit "programme" on its network. The definition of "programme" is as under:

(i) Exhibition of films, features, dramas, advertisement and serials.
(ii) Any audio or visual or audio-visual live performance or presentation, and the expression 'programming service' shall be construed accordingly.
(c) to (e): The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not provide a framework for regulation of local or ground based television channels. With a view to bring in place a regulatory mechanism for these channels, the Ministry has sought recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 17.01.2013. Among other things, recommendations of TRAI have been sought on the following:
Definition of local or ground based channels and their area of operation.
Registering authority and registration mechanism including eligibility requirements, fee, terms and conditions etc.
Monitoring mechanism.
Requirement of security clearance.
Transmission of local channels in the Digital Addressable regime etc.